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NEWS RELEASE

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The Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in Five Immigration Judges

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the investiture of five immigration judges. Chief Immigration Judge Brian M. O’Leary presided over the investiture during a ceremony held at EOIR’s headquarters on May 3, 2013.

After a thorough application process, Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Timothy R. Everett, J. Traci Hong, Amy T. Lee, Elizabeth H. McGrail and John C. Odell to their new positions. “EOIR is committed to continuing to apply its resources toward its primary mission,” said O’Leary. “The arrival of these five professionals brings our immigration judge corps to nearly 260, all of whom will work to help mitigate EOIR’s pending caseload.”

Biographical information follows.

Timothy R. Everett, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Everett in April 2013. Judge Everett received a bachelor of arts degree in 1980 from Louisiana State University; a master of arts degree and a juris doctorate in 1986 from Tulane University and Tulane University Law School respectively; and a master of studies in environmental law in 2000 from Vermont Law School. From March 2009 to April 2013, Judge Everett served as an assistant chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Los Angeles. From January 2000 to March 2009, he was a solo practitioner in Los Angeles. During that time from March 2000 to December 2000, he was an interim directing attorney for the Central American Resource Center in Los Angeles. From August 1999 to December 1999, Judge Everett worked as a legal intern at the National Wildlife Foundation in Washington, D.C. From May 1996 to August 1998, he was a solo practitioner in Los Angeles. From May 1991 to May 1996, Judge Everett served as a directing attorney of the Domestic Legal Department at El Rescate Legal Services in Los Angeles. From April 1990 to May 1991, he was a staff attorney at Ayuda Legal Services in Washington, D.C. From 1989 to 1990, he served as an associate attorney at the Law Office of William Van Wyke in Washington, D.C. Judge Everett is a member of the State Bar of California and the Florida Bar.

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J. Traci Hong, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Hong in April 2013. Judge Hong received a bachelor of arts degree in 1992 from The University of Texas at Austin and a juris doctorate in 1995 from The University of Texas School of Law. From February 2011 to April 2013, she served as a senior policy advisor for the Department of Homeland Security, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in Washington, D.C. From March 2007 to January 2011, Judge Hong served as counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law. From June 2003 to March 2007, she worked for the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C. as an immigration staff attorney and the immigration program director. From January 2000 to May 2003, Judge Hong was a staff attorney for the American Immigration Law Foundation in Washington, D.C. From August 1995 to December 1999, she practiced immigration law with the law firm of Tidwell Swaim & Associates, P.C., in Dallas. Judge Hong is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Amy T. Lee, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Lee in April 2013. Judge Lee received a bachelor of arts degree in 1992 from Stanford University; a juris doctorate in 1995 from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law; and a master of public administration in 2001 from California State University, East Bay. From February 2008 to April 2013, she was an attorney with Fallon, Bixby, Cheng & Lee, Inc. in San Francisco. From January 2006 to February 2008, Judge Lee was an attorney with the Law Offices of David M. Lederman in Antioch, Calif. From January 2005 to December 2005, she was a solo practitioner in Oakland, Calif. From January 2001 to January 2005, Judge Lee served as senior corporate counsel for PeopleSoft, Inc. From September 1995 to December 2000, she served as an assistant district counsel for the Department of Justice, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, in San Francisco. Judge Lee is a member of the State Bar of California.

Elizabeth H. McGrail, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge McGrail in April 2013. Judge McGrail received a bachelor of arts degree in 1985 from Vanderbilt University and a juris doctorate in 1989 from the College of William and Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law. From 2008 to April 2013, she served as legal director at Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition (CAIR Coalition) in Washington, D.C. From 2007 to 2008, Judge McGrail served as an of counsel for the Law Office of Richard S. Bromberg in Washington, D.C. From 2005 to 2007, she served as the detention project director and legal consultant for CAIR Coalition. From 1994 to 2005, Judge McGrail was a solo practitioner in Washington, D.C. From 1991 to 1994, she was an associate at Wasserman, Mancini & Chang in Washington, D.C. From 1989 to 1990, Judge McGrail was an associate at Brown & Wood in New York. Judge McGrail is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

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John C. Odell, Immigration Judge, Tacoma Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Odell in April 2013. Judge Odell received a bachelor of science degree in 1983 from the United States Coast Guard Academy and a juris doctorate in 1994 from the Seattle University School of Law. From October 2007 to April 2013, he served as an assistant chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in Seattle, Wash., where, from December 2008 to December 2010, he served as a special assistant U.S. attorney. From 1997 to 2007, Judge Odell served in the U.S. Coast Guard where he held various legal positions, including staff judge advocate, 13th Coast Guard District, Seattle, and Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn.; military judge, U.S. Coast Guard; senior defense counsel, Naval Legal Services Office, Bremerton, Wash.; and assistant legal officer, 13th Coast Guard District. Judge Odell is a member of the Washington State Bar.

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The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is an agency within the Department of Justice. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals interpret and adjudicate immigration cases according to United States immigration laws. EOIR's immigration judges conduct administrative court proceedings in immigration courts located throughout the nation. They determine whether foreign-born individuals — whom the Department of Homeland Security charges with violating immigration law — should be ordered removed from the United States or should be granted relief from removal and be permitted to remain in this country. The Board of Immigration Appeals primarily reviews appeals of decisions by immigration judges. EOIR's Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer adjudicates immigration-related employment cases. EOIR is committed to ensuring fairness in all of the cases it adjudicates.